REMARKS

Claims 9-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,703,875 to Burnett. Additionally, claims 1-8 and 16-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,703,875 to Burnett and U.S. Patent No. 6,172,990 to Deb et al. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Each independent claim (claims 1, 9, and 16) describes transmitting or receiving one or more synchronization symbol(s) that correspond to (or indicate) an identified packet type. For example, claim 1 recites a method of transmitting packet types of packets, the method including "identifying a packet type" and "transmitting a synchronization symbol that corresponds to the identified packet type, wherein the transmitted synchronization symbol provides synchronization information and wherein each packet type has a different synchronization symbol."

Burnett does not disclose synchronization symbols that correspond to (or indicate) packet types. Burnett discloses that "one approach is for the first switch 10a to send a state control word to the second switch 10b when the first switch 10a is about to begin sending a message. The state control word indicates to the second switch 10b which FIFO buffer 12, 13 to store the input words into." Burnett at 2: 40-49. Thus, a "state control word," as intended by Burnett, is transmitted by the first switch to instruct the second switch into which buffer subsequently transmitted packets are to be stored. There is no indication or suggestion in Burnett that the state control words disclosed by Burnett are involved in any synchronization.

Deb also does not disclose synchronization symbols that correspond to (or indicate) packet types. The Office Action states that "Deb discloses a method for receiving a packet and identified [sic] the type of received packet." Office Action at paragraph 6. Deb discusses methods for "processing packet data received from a physical layer." Deb at Abstract. Deb does not disclose synchronization symbols, nor does the Office Action rely on Deb to support synchronization or synchronization symbols.

6

In contrast, each of the independent claims recite features that relate synchronization symbols with packet types. Therefore, for at least these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-24 are patentable over the cited references, and request their early allowance.

Applicant submits herewith an extension of time fee and believes no additional fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 594728818US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: December 7, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By_____
Michael J. Smith
   Registration No.: 56,702
PERKINS COIE LLP
P.O. Box 1247
Seattle, Washington 98111-1247
(206) 359-8000
(206) 359-7198 (Fax)
Attorneys for Applicant